

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/115 W

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R 022301Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0917

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 2925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EC

SUBJECT: UNIFIED DEMONSTRATION OF THREE CENTERS MARKS ECUADOR'S
MAY DAY

REF: QUITO 2801

1. IN QUITO, GUAYAQUIL AND OTHER CITIES LEADERS OF THREE
TRADE UNION CENTERS DEMONSTRATED TOGETHER IN HONOR OF MAY
DAY AND TO PROTEST AGAINST RISING COST OF LIVING AND FOR
GENERAL WAGE INCREASE AND AGRARIAN REFORM. DEMONSTRATION
IN QUITO ATTENDED BY MORE PERSONS THAN HAVE PARTICIPATED
IN RECENT MEMORY (15 - 20 THOUSAND). BOTH IN QUITO AND
GUAYAQUIL HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF POLICE AND SOLDIERS
WERE AT THE READY, BUT NOT APPARENT. MINOR INCIDENTS DID
OCCUR AND THERE WERE SCATTERED ARRESTS OF STUDENTS AND
EXTREMISTS; IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, PARADES AND SPEECHES
WERE CARRIED OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT UNDER WATCHFUL GOVERN-
MENT EYE. ATTACKS ON PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES WERE
APPARENTLY WITHIN LIMITS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOE.

2. IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL LEADERS OF ALL THREE CENTERS
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PRIZED UNITY OF WORKING CLASS, I.E. COMMUNIST, CHRISTIAN

AND DEMOCRATIC CENTRALS, AS ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE AIMS OF WORKERS IN FACE OF CALLOUS REGIME. COMMUNIST LEADER OF PICHINCHA FEDERATION TOLD CROWD MAY DAY SHOW OF UNITY WAS BEGINNING OF A UNITY WHICH WOULD NOT BE DESTROYED UNTIL THE GOALS OF THE CLASS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. NEITHER FIGUEROA OF CHRISTIANS NOR VILLACRES OF CEOSL CONTRADICTED HIM.

3. IN CEOSL, CONTROVERSY RELATED TO UPCOMING CONGRESS LED TO SPLIT IN GUAYAS FEDERATION ONE EVE OF MAY DAY. VILLACRES SUPPORTERS OUSTED JULIO CHANG AND HIS ADHERENTS AND INSTALLED NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF VILLACRES ALLIES. BOTH GROUPS MARCHED SEPARATELY IN MAY DAY PARADE. (WE LOOK FOR HARD TO HEAL CONFRONTATIONS IN GUAYAQUIL FEDERATION FROM NOW ON, WEAKENING EVEN FURTHER SHAKY CEOSL ON EVE OF MAY 24 CONGRESS.)

4. COMMENT: SPLIT IN CEOSL GUAYAS FEDERATION COULD LEAD TO BITTER POLEMICS AND EVEN VIOLENCE AT SCHEDULED MANTA CONGRESS. IT COULD EVEN CAUSE POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION OF THIS EVENT FOR FEAR OF WHAT COULD OCCUR. BREWSTER

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